

Little Bridges News

October 2017



Calendar of Events

Book Fair

10/2 – 10/6

School Age Min. Days

10/9 – 10/13

Costume Parade

Tuesday 10/31 9:30 AM

Food Drive

11/1 – 11/30

CLOSED – Veteran's Day

Friday 11/10

School Age All Day Camp

11/1 & 11/20 – 11/22

CLOSED – Thanksgiving

11/23 & 11/24

Enrichment Classes

Soccer Shots (3-5 yrs)

Mondays

Kinderdance (3-5 yrs)

Wednesdays

Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)

Thursdays

Art & Soul Music (SA)

Wed & Thurs

Leggo Robotics (SA)

Fridays

Book Fair 10/2– 10/6

The Book Fair will be set up in the preschool office, October 3rd to October 7th. Please come in and help build Little Bridges' classroom libraries. There are 2 easy ways that you can help.

1. Buy books. Come in and purchase books. Every book you buy earns us "book credit" to purchase books. Our profit from the total sales is **50%!** So, if you purchase \$20.00 in books, Little Bridges receives \$10.00 to spend on books for the school.

2. Purchase books for your child's class. Each class has a "wishlist" bin filled with books the teachers would like to add to their classroom library. The book you donate will have a sticker inside the cover that says who the book is from. Your child will love seeing his or her book in the classroom!

Little Bridges Costume Parade

On Tuesday, October 31st, all preschool children will parade around in their costumes at 9:30 a.m. We will rope off an area in the parking lot for the parade route. Afterwards, the whole school will perform a few songs they have been learning in music class. Please come, watch, cheer and take pictures!

It is easiest to send your child to school in their costume with a bag of clothes to change into. Please label everything and remember that anything scary or violent (including masks and weapons) are not appropriate for a school setting.

Updated Little Bridges Website

We have just launched our new website! Check us out at www.littlebridges.org. Our updated site is a great resource to help to keep you informed on upcoming events, class curriculum and learning goals for our students. We also now have a FaceBook page and an Instagram Account. Give us a "like" if you want!

Operation Christmas Child – Free Carnival

Christmas is around the corner for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox organization. OCC collects shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items. The filled shoeboxes are then shipped around the world to children who otherwise would not receive a Christmas gift. **Canyon Creek Church will be hosting the OCC Kick Off Carnival and Packing Party to celebrate the Shoebox collection season on Saturday, Oct. 14th at 4:00pm.**

The whole family is invited! Come join us for some carnival fun – crafts, bouncy house, games, and a huge shoebox packing party.

What Kids Really Learn in Preschool

High-quality early-childhood programs build a firm foundation that makes it easier for children to learn to read, earn good grades, and develop productive friendships. These crucial academic and social skills are pieces to a child's inner core that stay with them the rest of their lives. Below are the ten most important things your child will learn at Little Bridges while she is here.

1. How to be a student. To a visitor, one of our preschool classrooms can seem chaotic, because children are free to choose from a set number of centers activities, toys, and playmates. Yet underlying this easygoing atmosphere are many rules and routines designed to teach children how to conduct themselves in a classroom and be part of a group. Kids as young as 2 know where to put their finished art projects, how to line up to go outside, and where to sit when it's time for a snack. At story time, for example, children can't wander away from the group or interrupt the teacher the way they might do when reading at home with a parent.

2 How to make friends. Preschool offers opportunities for learning how to forge friendships and settle differences with and without the help of a parent or caregiver.

Preschoolers learn how to approach other children and be comfortable around them. They figure out how to start up a conversation by focusing on the other person - by saying, 'What are you doing?' instead of 'I can build a bigger tower than that.' " This social savvy benefits kids as they get older and need to work on school projects in pairs and groups.

3 How to be independent. Parents automatically tend to help their 3- or 4-year-olds with the small tasks of everyday life, such as putting on their jacket, opening their lunchbox, or carrying their show-and-tell treasure from the car to the classroom. But preschool teachers encourage students to take more responsibility. Children learn how to put on their shoes, open their own juice boxes, and remember to wash their hands after going to the bathroom. This early practice in self-care skills will help give your child confidence in other settings, such as at a friend's house, where you're not around to intervene.

4 How to tell a story. Although experts believe that pre-schoolers should not be pushed to learn to read, these young students can still develop a love of books. Children should feel that books open up the whole world to them.

Preschoolers have plenty of opportunities to hear stories as well as to tell them and act them out with their friends. Listening to stories helps them grasp the concept that a plot has a beginning, a middle, and an end, and it also motivates them to want to read on their own. Children begin to realize that print is something very meaningful and powerful.

5 How to ask for help. You can't have fun on the playground if your tummy hurts or there's tanbark in your sneakers but you're too timid to tell the teacher. Preschoolers develop the confidence and inner strength to speak up. Research has shown that having caring, responsive relationships with their first teachers helps children form productive relationships with subsequent teachers and other adults. Young children will approach new relationships with confidence if they've already had some positive experience in accepting authority from adults outside their family.

6 How to cut and paste. Those scribbled drawings and goopy collages your preschooler brings home each week are more than expressions of his creativity. When children work with scissors, glue sticks, and crayons, they're developing the fine motor control that will help them form legible *b*'s and *d*'s and even take class notes in high school. This small-muscle development is critical during the preschool years.

7 How to build a block tower. Preschool block builders hone their spatial skills and gain hands-on math experience. When children play with blocks and other 'manipulatives,' they learn to sort and classify. So, when children are building a tower and run out of long blocks, for example, they'll discover that they can use two short blocks instead. This experience gives kids a solid foundation for understanding division, fractions, and geometry.

8 How to recognize symbols, concepts, and rhymes. Though they may not be ready to read, preschoolers are usually able to identify numbers and letters. Kids practice saying and writing the letters in their name, reciting simple number sentences, and even learning the letters in their classmates' and teachers' names. They generally develop a useful understanding of colors and shapes -- knowing, for example, that mixing two colors will create a third or recognizing that someone's hat is shaped like a triangle. Learning nursery rhymes and songs also helps children academically. Kids who know how to rhyme will learn to read more easily, and evidence suggests that music instruction at an early age can help children in math.

9 How to hop, skip, and jump. Children play outside nearly every day, strengthening their muscles and developing their coordination. Running, sliding, climbing, and playing with balls are all important ways in which children learn how to control their bodies, refine their large motor skills, and develop self-confidence.

Time spent on the playground also gives preschoolers opportunities for independent problem solving ("How do I move my legs to peddle this bike?") and social interaction ("Want to play house with me?"). This free play is a very different experience from going to the park with a parent or caregiver, who will watch a child more closely, offer suggestions for navigating the equipment, and applaud every achievement.

10 How to investigate and explore. Preschoolers are natural scientists, and they benefit from having plenty of opportunities for hands-on, self-directed experimentation. Curiosity leads to discovery - which leads to an intrinsic love of learning. Students who always have teacher or parent-directed experiences get used to being told what to do. But in our child centered program, where children are encouraged to choose activities and classroom materials on their own, students are prepared to do the kinds of independent projects that higher grades require.